

WASHINGTON D. C. EXAMINER
May 9-11, 1968

Books worth noting

lives, appears to be indestructible. He has survived not only the villainous machinations of his creator, Ian Fleming, he has even survived Fleming's own demise. This new whodunit-adventure contains as many mysteries as the old ones—though we may, contrary to custom, divulge one of them at the start. The publisher himself informs us whodunit: Robert Markham is really English novelist Kingsley Amis.

Following the opening in England, the story flies to Athens. The way to rescue the abducted 'M', Bond's boss, is to play right into the hands of the still unidentified enemy, and Bond is picked as the patsy. It nets him a girl (Bond hasn't lost his way with women), a fine view of the Acropolis and a specimen classical tour of the Greek islands.

More bodies strew the ancient land and sea as Bond and sundry girl friends unravel the mysteries and close in remorselessly on their quarry on the island of Vakronisi.

It is fair to assume that when you add one good writer to another you get something twice as good. This is not a new procedure—comic strips sometimes go on for years after the originator dies, and we have the example of a Wild West character so popular that novels about him flooded out long after author No. 1, like so many of his

hero's luckless victims, had been buried. In theory, Fleming's plotting, pace and blood-letting should mate perfectly with Amis's subtleties—we remember them in his recent *Anti-Death League*.

But the result is less than perfect. The tale isn't quite so irresistible as Fleming's or quite so sophisticated as Amis's. And to add to all the other violence, Amis blows his cool with violence at the adventure's end. But these are irrelevant reservations. Once we define what Amis has not accomplished and pass beyond the area of comparisons, we have a fine rush of suspense and action and we come out of it crying, "Long live Bond!"

—Sat. Rev. Synd.



Norman.

LONEL SUN: A James Bond Adventure.
By Robert Markham. Harper & Row,
244pp. \$5.95.
James Bond, blessed with a cat's nine